GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1660
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to connect India and different countries with optic fibre submarine cable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the countries which are likely to be connected with optic fibre cable during this financial year; and

(d) the extent to which the subscribers are likely to be benefited?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) is participating in the implementation of submarine cable called SAT-3/WASC/SAFE with an investment of USD 50 million. This cable is to connect Malaysia, India, Mauritius, Reunion Island, South Africa and other West African countries finally terminating at Portugal. The system is likely to be commissioned by 1st Quarter 2002. M/s Bharti BT Internet Ltd. have plans to connect India with Singapore. M/s Dishnet DSL Ltd. have plans to lay Undersea Cable to provide direct connectivity from India to Singapore, Jakarta and West Coast of USA. The system is likely to be commissioned by July 2002.

(d) The above projects are likely to make available a large amount of bandwidth from India to a number of countries. This is also likely to reduce the cost of bandwidth. Thus, subscribers are likely to be benefited because of better international connectivity.